WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A content delivery service providing apparatus which provides content delivery service via a communication line to a user-side terminal unit capable of recording content into an information storage medium into which at least a medium unique identifier and medium information on medium key information have been written, or into a different information storage medium from the information storage medium with the information storage medium being set, the content delivery service providing apparatus comprising:

a user management control unit which preregisters user information including personal information about a user applying for subscription to the delivery service, service range, and payment method, and manages the distribution of authentication information and the distribution of a delivery content list at the time of providing service on a user basis, the acceptance of a content select request, charging, and settlement;

an encrypted content control unit which acquires not only content but also a content key creation condition from a copyright owner or copyright manager of the content who provides the delivery service, and creates a content key on the basis of the content key creation condition and encrypted content on the basis of the content key;

an encrypted content key control unit which

accumulates the content keys created at the encrypted

content control unit and, registers all of or a part

of the medium information in the information storage

medium and, using the medium information or the medium

5   information and terminal device unique key information

presented at the user's content request, encrypts the

content key corresponding to the requested content, and

issues the encrypted content key to the terminal unit

of the requesting user; and

10   a content delivery control unit which accumulates

the encrypted contents created at the encrypted content

control unit, selects the corresponding content at the

user's content request, and delivers the encrypted

content to the terminal unit of the requesting user.

15   2. A user management control unit wherein the

user management control unit is used in the content

delivery service providing apparatus according to

claim 1, and comprises:

user eligibility decision means for determining t

20   the eligibility of a user who presents user information

including user personal information, service applicable

range, and payment method as an application for a

subscription to the content delivery service,

user information management means for managing the

25   user information about eligible users determined to be

eligible by the decision means,

authentication information issuing means for

issuing login authentication information to the user,

list offering means for selecting deliverable content from the service applicable range of the user information managed by the user information management
5 means and offering the list to the user-side terminal unit logged in on the basis of the authentication information,

delivery instructing means for receiving the selection of the content presented on the list from the
10 user-side terminal unit and instructing the content delivery control unit to deliver the corresponding content, and

charging and settlement means for managing charging and settlement information about the user at
15 the time of delivering the content.

3. The content delivery service providing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

authorization information delivering means for delivering authorization information to startup a
20 content acquiring application to the user-side terminal unit at the time of delivering the content.

4. An encrypted content control unit wherein the encrypted content control unit is used in the content delivery service providing apparatus according to
25 claim 1, and comprises:

encrypted content creating means for encoding the content in specified digital encoding form or

converting the content into specified digital encoding form, creating a content key on the basis of the content key creating condition, and encrypting the content using the content key,

5   encrypted content issuing means for issuing the encrypted content encrypted at the encrypted content creating means to the content delivery control unit, and

content key issuing means for issuing the
10   encrypted content key encrypted at the encrypted content creating means to the content key control unit.

5.   An encrypted content key control unit wherein the encrypted content key control unit is used in the content delivery service providing apparatus according
15   to claim 1, and comprises:

a content key accumulating section which accumulates the content keys created at the encrypted content control unit,

a medium information storage section which stores
20   all of or a part of the medium information in the   . information storage medium,

an encrypting section which, at the user's content request, reads the content key corresponding to the requested content from the content key accumulating
25   section and, on the basis of the medium information presented by the user, encrypts the content key, and

an encrypted content key issuing section which

issues the encrypted content key created at the encrypting section to the requester.

6. The encrypted content key control unit according to claim 5, wherein the encrypting section acquires at least one of terminal device unique key information, content identification information, information to identify a content delivery control unit, information to identify a medium linking content acquiring unit, information to identify a region, information to identify a user, and content key individual information which are presented together with the medium information by the user and, on the basis of these pieces of information, encrypts the content key.

7. A content delivery control unit wherein the content delivery control unit is used in the content delivery service providing apparatus according to claim 1, and comprises:

an encrypted content accumulating section which accumulates the encrypted contents created at the encrypted content control unit,

an encrypting section which, at the user's content request, reads the corresponding encrypted content from the encrypted content accumulating section and, on the basis of the encrypted content key created at the encrypted content key control unit, encrypts the encrypted content, and

a delivering section which delivers the encrypted
content created at the encrypting section to the
requester.

8. The content delivery service providing
apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

date-and-time synchronizing means for
synchronizing date-and-time information with that in
the user-side terminal unit.

9. The content delivery service providing
apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the encrypted
content key control unit and the content delivery
control unit selectively include an arbitrary content
viewing condition and option information in the
encrypted content key creation and the encrypted
content delivery, respectively.

10. A content delivery service terminal unit
wherein the content delivery service terminal unit
receives the content delivery service from the content
delivery service providing apparatus of claim 1, and
comprises:

a user access content selecting unit which logs in
to the user management control unit on the basis of the
authentication information and makes a content select
request on the basis of the delivery content list;

a medium linking content acquiring unit which
acquires the medium information from the information
storage medium at the content select request and sends

the information to the content delivery service

providing unit, receives the encrypted content key and

the encrypted content from the content delivery service

providing apparatus, and writes them together into the

5   writable area of the information storage medium in

which the medium information has been written, or

separately into the writable area of the information

storage medium in which the medium information has been

written and of another information medium; and

10   a content presentation control unit which reads

an arbitrary encrypted content and the corresponding

encrypted content key from the information storage

medium, decrypts the encrypted content keys on the

basis of the medium information or the medium

15   information and the terminal device unique key

information, and decrypts the encrypted content on

the basis of the decrypted content key.

        11.   The content delivery service terminal unit

according to claim 10, wherein the user access content

20   selecting unit includes

        login means for logging in to the user management

control unit on the basis of previously presented

authentication information and presenting the

information requested, and

25   content select requesting means for acquiring

a delivery content select list presented by the user

management control unit in the access, presenting the

list, and informing the user management control unit of the content select request specified the user.

12. The content delivery service terminal unit according to claim 10, wherein the medium linking content acquiring unit includes

information notifying means for acquiring the medium information from the information storage medium at the content select request, and notifying the encrypted content key control unit and the content delivery control unit of the medium information or the medium information and the terminal device unique key information, and

information storage means for receiving the encrypted content key and the encrypted content from the encrypted content key control unit and the content delivery control unit, and writing them together into the writable area of the information storage medium in which the medium information has been written, or separately into the writable area of the information storage medium in which the medium information has been written and of another information medium.

13. The content delivery service terminal unit according to claim 12, wherein the medium linking content acquiring unit further includes

startup means for starting up in response to the authorization information delivered from the content deliver service providing apparatus, making mutual

authentication with the content delivery service
providing apparatus, and giving an instruction to
execute the processes of the information notifying
means and the information storage means after the
5   confirmation of the authentication.

14.   The content delivery service terminal unit
according to claim 10, further comprising:

date-and-time management means for executing
processes on the basis of the date-and-time information
10   supplied from the content delivery service providing
apparatus.

15.   The content delivery service terminal unit
according to claim 10, wherein the medium linking
content acquiring unit, when receiving a content
15   viewing condition from the content delivery service
providing apparatus, writes the viewing condition into
the information storage medium in which the medium
information has been written or into another
information storage medium, and

20   the content presentation control unit, when
decrypting the encrypted content and the encrypted
content key, executes processes on the basis of the
content viewing condition.

16.   The content delivery service terminal unit
25   according to claim 12, wherein the medium linking
content acquiring unit, when the encrypted content
viewing condition specifies a viewing period, manages

the content written into the information storage medium
by date-and-time information and makes the content
unusable from the information storage medium after the
viewing period has expired.

5 17. The content delivery service terminal unit
according to claim 10, wherein the content presentation
control unit, when at least one of the encrypted
content and the encrypted content key has been written
into a different information storage medium from the
10 information storage medium into which the medium
information has been written, executes the process of
reading and decrypting the encrypted content and the
encrypted content key only in a state where the
information storage medium in which the medium
15 information has been written is set.